



Working Group Updates

Vermont Dairy and Water Collaborative

Cross-sector group of 22 citizen-leaders.

Learned together: dairy economy, water quality, land stewardship, new models.

Articulated shared goals.

Developed 8 recommendations.

See our written Call to Action.



CALL TO ACTION:

We are in crisis: our community, economy and environment are at risk.

Answers lie at the intersection of agriculture and water quality.



RECOMMENDATIONS - 8 ideas in 3 areas:



Support improved farmland and nutrient management.

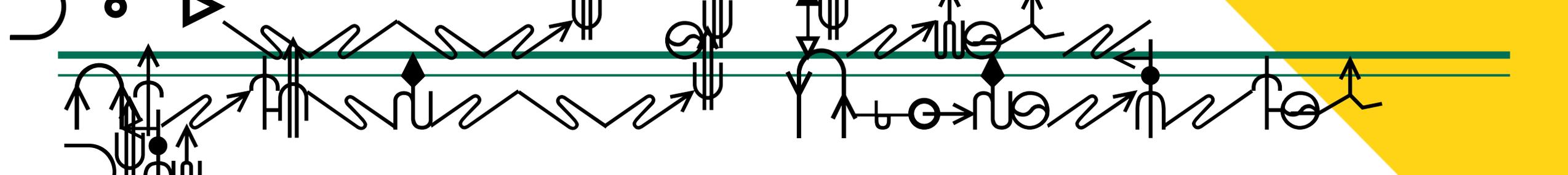
Regulatory change: outcomes-based, farm & watershed nutrient balance.

Transition to thriving, diverse, sustainable agricultural economy that includes payment for ecosystem services.

Conversations on the Future of VT Agriculture

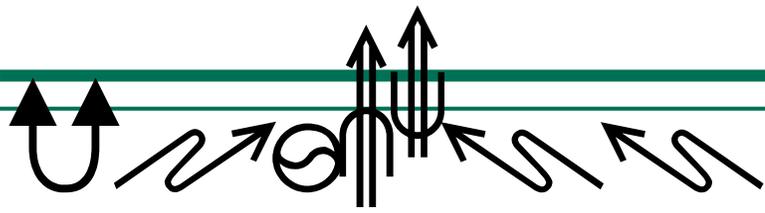


The University of Vermont

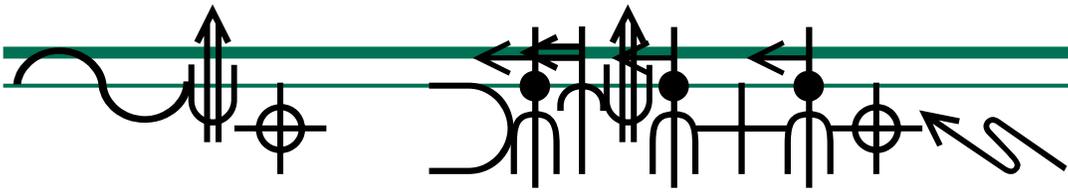


Primary Topics Addressed

- Trends and challenges in the Vermont agricultural economy
- History of the response
- Identification of potential new strategies
- An invitation to further conversation



- Meetings and conversation with a variety of individuals and groups
- Research on trends and challenges facing the agricultural economy
- Report: *A 2018 Exploration of the Future of Vermont Agriculture*
 - Includes list of potential new strategies



- Report identified magnitude of problem, shared with others to generate sense of urgency
- Past and current efforts have been insufficient, may warrant more investment
- Proposed strategies warrant further investigation before implementation

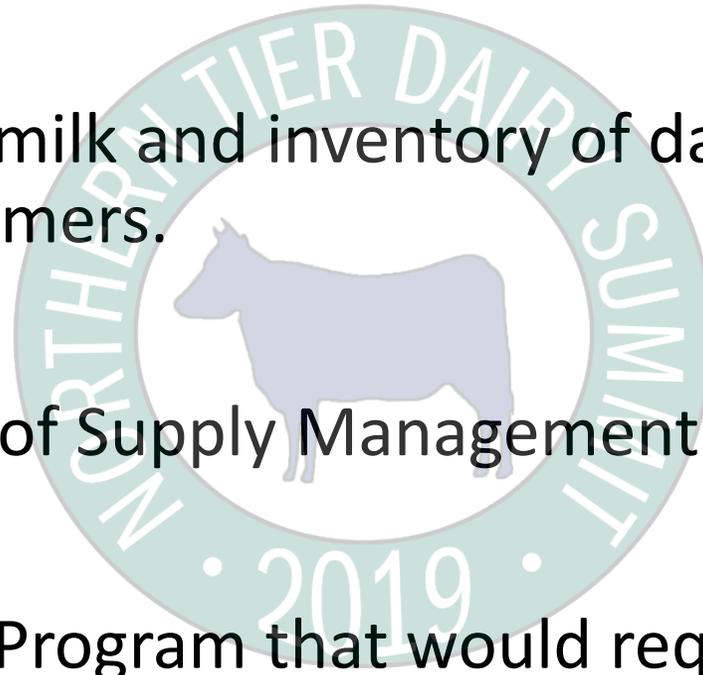


- Assembling Leadership Team and \$ to evaluate strategies
- Ongoing stakeholder conversations – please participate as you can

Vermont Milk
Commission:
Growth
Management Plan



- Milk Commission was tasked by the Vermont Legislature to review supply management programs and determine if a program would be useful for Vermont.
- The issue is too much milk and inventory of dairy products impacting prices paid to dairy farmers.
- Reviewed many types of Supply Management Programs.
- Growth Management Program that would require farmers who wish to continue to grow to “buy access” to the market.



		Farm Production					Commercial Use			
Year	Beginning com. stocks (A)	Production	Farm use	Marketings (B)	Imports (C)	Total supply (A+B+C)	Domestic com. Disapp.	Com. exports²	Total com. Disapp.	Ending com. stocks³
2013	7,973	201,231	976	200,255	5,311	213,539	167,414	38,548	205,962	7,577
2014	7,577	206,054	964	205,090	5,627	218,294	169,822	39,038	208,860	9,434
2015	9,434	208,597	968	207,629	5,986	223,049	176,561	37,337	213,898	9,151
2016	9,151	212,405	993	211,412	6,500	227,063	178,486	39,052	217,538	9,525
2017	9,525	215,466	979	214,487	6,053	230,065	177,556	40,715	218,271	11,794

- Milk Commission suggests any plan would need to include the following:
 - A dairy farmer **governance board** working in conjunction with USDA.
 - Determination of a **base milk volume** for individual producers.
 - Determination of the **volume of milk required** to meet domestic and export needs as well as a 30-day emergency stock of dairy products.
 - Production of more milk than assigned base – lower price – **pay to access the market.**
 - A **means to provide strong signals** to individual dairy farmers that milk over the required domestic and export volume and emergency stock is not desired
 - A **means for new dairy farmers** to join family operations and or start new individual dairy farms.
 - Detailed rules and regulations to **allow business structure changes** such as the merging of dairy farming operations or the dissolution of farm partnerships.
- The specific recommendations for a Growth Management Plan include:
 - Mandatory, national level implementation
 - A flat rate administrative fee for all dairy farmers.

